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**In The United States Patent And
Trademark Office**

Applicant: Raymond G. Blair et al.

Serial No.: 09/802,420 ✓

Art Unit: 3729

Filed: 9 March 2001

Attorney Docket: WC0001D-A

For: Ablative Method For Forming
RF Ceramic Block Filters

Examiner: Alan M. Boswell

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER RULE 116

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2002 on the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request the following amendments:

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 27 as follows:

27 (amended). A method of manufacturing an RF ceramic filter comprising the steps of:

forming a block of ceramic material having an outer surface with at least one pair of opposing sides and defining a plurality of through holes extending between the opposing sides;

covering the block with a conductive coating;

heat treating the coated block; and

ablately etching a selected area of the heat-treated coated block to form a pattern of metallized and unmetallized areas on the block,
wherein the step of ablately etching is carried out such that the unmetallized areas are recessed into the block of ceramic material.